



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Comments Sought on Cleanup Plan

Outboard Marine Corporation

Waukegan Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant Site

Waukegan, Illinois

September 2004

Contact EPA

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or want to be on the mailing list for Waukegan Coke Plant cleanup news, you can contact these EPA representatives:

Mike Joyce

EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator

(312) 353-5546 or (800) 621-8431,
weekdays 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

E-mail: joyce.mike@epa.gov

Kevin Adler

EPA Remedial Project Manager

(312) 886-7078 or (800) 621-8431,
weekdays 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

E-mail: adler.kevin@epa.gov

Susan Tennenbaum

EPA Associate Regional Counsel

(312) 886-0273 or (800) 621-8431,
weekdays 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

E-mail: tennenbaum.susan@epa.gov

Site-related documents
may be reviewed at:

EPA Region 5 Records Center

77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor
Chicago, Ill.

Waukegan Public Library

(site information repository)

Reference Desk

128 N. County St.

Waukegan, Ill.

Certain EPA information can
be viewed electronically at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/>

The U.S. Department of Justice is holding a comment period on the consent decree for the Waukegan Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant area of the Outboard Marine Corp. Site. EPA issued a cleanup decision for the Coke Plant site in September 1999. During the design phase of the cleanup, EPA made changes to the soil cleanup strategy.

This decree would formally implement the 1999 cleanup decision and the subsequent changes. The consent decree requires:

- The city of Waukegan and Larsen Marine Service (the owners of the site) provide site access for cleanup and monitoring;
- Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway, General Motors, and North Shore Gas (the potentially responsible parties) perform the soil and ground-water cleanups in a timely manner (groundwater is an underground source of fresh water);
- The city operate and maintain the completed soil cleanup;
- Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway, General Motors, and North Shore Gas operate and maintain the completed ground-water treatment system; and
- Land-use restrictions prevent interference with the cleanup.

The agreement also allows the city to redevelop the site for a variety of uses, including residential, if further cleanup actions are taken by the city under EPA approval.

The Department of Justice is accepting comments on these amendments until Sept. 24, 2004. Comments should reference United States v. City of Waukegan et al., D.J. Ref. 90-11-3-07051 and should be addressed to:

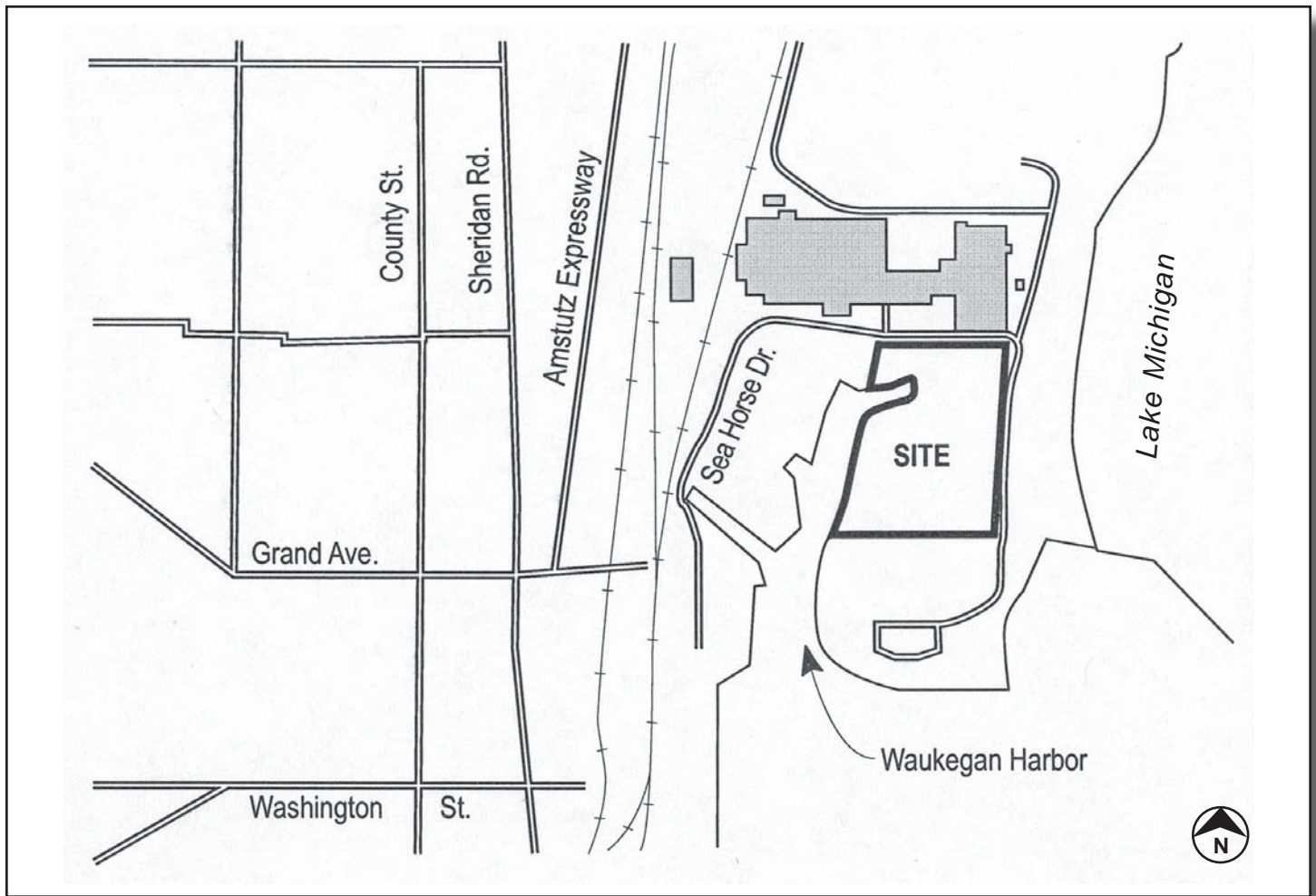
U.S. Attorney General

Environment and Natural Resources Division

P.O. Box 7611

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20044-7611



Site Background

The 36-acre Outboard Marine Co./Waukegan Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant site is located in Waukegan, Illinois, on a peninsula separating Waukegan Harbor from Lake Michigan.

Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad Co. originally purchased the site in 1893. In 1908, EJ&E allowed Chicago Tie and Timber Co. to develop the western portion of the site as a creosote wood-treating plant. A manufactured gas and coke plant was built in 1928 and continued operation under various owners until 1969. The coke plant buildings and structures were demolished in 1972. Between 1973 and 1989, Outboard Marine Co. used the property for fire training, public parking, snowmobile testing and other activities. Larsen Marine currently uses the northwestern portion of the site for seasonal boat

and trailer storage. The Outboard Marine Co. data building, administration building, parking lots, and lawn occupy the southeast quadrant. The site and the surrounding area have historically been used as part of the industrial and commercial waterfront in Waukegan. The beach area adjacent to the site on the lakeside is used for public recreation. The entire Outboard Marine Co./Waukegan Coke Plant site was listed on the National Priorities List in 1983. The Waukegan Coke Plant contamination was identified during the Outboard Marine Co. PCB cleanup in 1990.

In 1995, a study to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site (a remedial investigation) revealed that surface and subsurface soil samples collected during the investigation contained

contaminant levels that exceed both state and federal regulatory standards. Semi-volatile organic compounds, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and inorganic compounds were detected in on-site soil samples in concentrations that could cause potential health risks. Ground-water sampling at the site and several hundred feet east and south of the site indicates that contaminant concentrations exceed federal Safe Drinking Water Act and State of Illinois Drinking Water Standards.

The 1999 cleanup plan being implemented with this consent decree is the result of a study that evaluated various alternatives for cleaning up contamination at the site (a feasibility study) that was completed in 1998. The site's remedial investigation, feasibility

study, and other documents used to develop the cleanup plan are available for review in the information repository.

Next steps

Following the comment period and resolution of any issues raised, a contractor will be selected to dig up and dispose of an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards of arsenic, creosote and contaminated soil. The soil that is removed will be replaced with a layer of clean soil. EPA is targeting a late-fall 2004 start for this project, which will last about four months. Following the soil excavation, work on the groundwater treatment system is expected to begin in late summer 2005.

The decree may be examined through Sept. 24, 2004 at:

Office of the United States Attorney
219 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, Ill.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/open.html>

or by contacting:

Tonia Fleetwood
tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov
Fax: (202) 514-0097

To request a copy of the decree by mail send a check for \$35.50 payable to the U.S. Treasury to cover reproduction costs. To request a copy without exhibits and defendants' signatures, please enclose a check for \$18.75 to:

Consent Decree Library
P.O. Box 7611
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20044-7611



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 5
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

FIRST CLASS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**WAUKEGAN COKE PLANT SITE:
Cleanup Plan Comments Accepted Through Sept. 24, 2004**

This fact sheet is printed on paper made of recycled fibers.